

Abstract

A home-based client-side media computer for use within a home that has a broadband connection to an Internet network. The home computer includes a first connection port to allow a speech-based conversation to occur over the home-based 5 broadband connection to the Internet network. A second connection port is included to allow a speech-based conversation to occur over a public switched telephone network (PSTN). A plurality of speech engines recognize and synthesize speech to allow the speech-based conversations to occur over the first connection port and the second connection port.